



Cox Foundation Scholarship Opportunity for Family Members Enrolled in George Mason University's Certificate Program in Special Education

The Family Liaison Office will be offering a Foreign Service Eligible Family Member or Member of Household enrolled in George Mason University's FAST TRAIN International Special Education Certificate graduate program a scholarship of up to \$5000, funded by the Cox Foundation. To be eligible to apply for this scholarship, you must be accepted and enrolled in the Special Education Fast Train program.

Foreign Service family members with backgrounds in education have a skill that is in demand overseas. However, few are trained in the field of special education. Overseas international schools have argued that it is difficult to meet the needs of special needs students due to the lack of qualified personnel. Earning the International Special Education Certificate provides a professional development opportunity for a Foreign Service family member that may, in turn, benefit the growing numbers of Foreign Service children with special education needs.

An International Special Education Certificate from George Mason University is one way to expand your credentials and break into the field of Special Education. The certificate is issued upon completion of a series of 5 online courses totaling 15 credits. Each course requires 15 - 20 hours of field experience. Field experiences consist of observing and interviewing teachers in the classroom and preparing written evaluations based upon an assessment of the teacher's techniques, combined with theory learned in one's coursework.

Family members interested in this unique opportunity must first enroll in George Mason University's Special Education Fast Train program (for more information on George Mason University's admission requirements, please see below).

If you intend to enroll in George Mason University's International Special Education Certificate program and are interested in competing for the scholarship funded by the Cox Foundation, please notify the Family Liaison Office by emailing FLOAskEducation@state.gov. FLO will send out a cable outlining scholarship application procedures in June 2006.

George Mason University Information:

The general home page for the FAST TRAIN program website is:
<http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/fasttrain/index.shtml>

Information on the special education certificate program is found at:
http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/fasttrain/programs_of_study/special_ed_program.html

Admission information for special education can be found at:
http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/fasttrain/admissions_information/special_education_certificate_program.html

Admission information for international students can be found at:
http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/fasttrain/admissions_information/international_students.html

Tuition rates are found at:
http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/fasttrain/student_resources/tuition.html

George Mason University Application Deadlines for U. S. Citizens:

Fall 2006 Semester - Application Deadline is July 1, 2006
Spring 2007 Semester - Application Deadline is November 1, 2006
Summer 2007 Semester - Application Deadline is March 1, 2007

George Mason University Application Deadlines for Non-U.S. Citizens:

Fall 2006 Semester - Application Deadline is May 1, 2006
Spring 2007 Semester - Application Deadline is October 1, 2006
Summer 2007 Semester - Application Deadline is March 1, 2007

If you have questions or would like additional information about this program, please contact FLOAskEducation@state.gov.